



**For immediate release
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DCR REOPENS ONE SIDE OF LONGFELLOW BRIDGE TO ALL TRAFFIC

Trucks now permitted in Boston-to-Cambridge direction

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) officials today announced that effective immediately, both lanes of Boston-to-Cambridge traffic on the Longfellow Bridge will be open, and large trucks will once again be allowed to cross the bridge in that direction.

On June 28, the inside lanes in both directions on the Longfellow were closed to all traffic, and trucks weighing 20 tons and more were prohibited from the bridge entirely. Since then, DCR has completed necessary repairs to the downstream, Boston-to-Cambridge side of the bridge, and both lanes in that direction are being reopened for all traffic.

Repairs continue under the upstream, Cambridge-to-Boston, lanes, and large trucks are still prohibited from traveling on that side. Those repairs are expected to be completed, and that side reopened to all traffic, within about three months.

“With the summer vacation season ending and residents resuming their normal school and work routines, DCR is very happy to be able to reopen one side of the Longfellow Bridge to all traffic and ease congestion on both sides of the Charles River,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “DCR crews have worked extremely hard over the last two months to get this bridge back into good condition, and I commend their efforts.”

This week, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials concurred with state officials from DCR and the Massachusetts Highway Department that restrictions on the Boston-to-Cambridge side of the bridge could be lifted. In June, the FHWA had recommended that DCR prohibit trucks weighing more than 20 tons from the bridge, and restrict all traffic from the inside lanes, until repairs could be complete.

Today, in a written communication to DCR and MassHighway officials, Lucy Garliauskas, FHWA Division Administrator, said, “We concur with MassHighway Administration’s August 28, 2008, approval letter ... to allow the downstream Cambridge-bound traffic to be restored with a statutory truck posting limitation.”

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Statutory limits on the Longfellow allow trucks with as many as five axles and weighing up to 40 tons to cross the bridge.

In the last year, DCR has spent more than \$1 million on inspections and approximately \$7 million on repairs to the Longfellow Bridge. More than 254 jack beams and 220 stringers have been replaced, and more than railing brackets have been repaired.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.